

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today released the following statement in advance of President Obama's address before a Joint Session of Congress:

"The President has an opportunity to build a framework for potential agreement with the American people and their representatives on solutions for strengthening our health care system. But if there is a persistence on the government-run option as the essential solution, this will erode health care liberties and only create a more divisive and volatile political environment.

"I believe it would serve the President well to recognize that most people are generally satisfied with their current health care coverage, but not the rising costs. A fresh, bipartisan approach should be both proportional to the problems that do exist for some Americans, such as pre-existing conditions, and focus on the essential question of how we improve health outcomes and reduce costs while protecting vulnerable persons.

"As I continue to emphasize, building a culture of prevention and wellness, strengthening the best of patient-centered care, and creating new insurance models can help meet these goals."

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